

***Reasons for Allowance***

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. Independent claim 4 has been amended to remove hydrogen from the list of alternative groups for functional group R<sup>2</sup>. Upon further consideration of the prior art, it is noted that the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the remaining species where R<sup>2</sup> is phenyl or the various recited salts. Therefore, claims 3 and 4, and claims 5, 8-11, and 22 which are ultimately dependent upon claim 4, are allowed.
3. The following prior art is made of record:
4. *Chem. Commun. 1999*, 1285-1286 (herein "Ashford") discloses the use of sodium 2-bromo isobutyrate in an ATRP process (see right column on page 1286). Ashford fails to disclose or suggest the use of sodium 2-bromo isobutyrate to produce a nitroxide. Therefore, Ashford does not bar an allowance of the present claims.
5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RICHARD A. HUHN whose telephone number is (571) 270-7345. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan can be reached on (571) 272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. A. H./  
Examiner, Art Unit 1796

/Vasu Jagannathan/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1796

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